

## Claims

- [c1] 1.A composition which comprises about 0.1 to about 4.5 mg selenium/kg of dog or cat diet on a dry matter basis, the diet providing nutritional sustenance for an animal.
- [c2] 2.A method for controlling the rate of hair growth in a dog or cat which comprises feeding the dog or cat a hair growth rate controlling amount of selenium of from about 0.1 to about 4.5 selenium mg /kg of diet on a dry matter basis.
- [c3] 3.A method for preventing or treating poor hair growth or alopecia in animals in need of said treatment, related to disease, reproduction cycle, seasonal changes or direct hair removal which comprises feeding the animal a hair growth rate controlling amount of selenium of from about 0.1 to about 4.5 mg/kg of diet on a dry matter basis.
- [c4] 4.The method in accordance with claim 3 wherein the animal is a dog, cat, or sheep.
- [c5] 5.The method in accordance with claim 4 wherein the animal is a dog or cat.
- [c6]